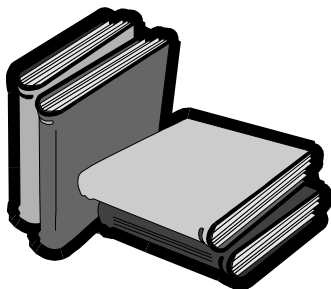




Drying Books and Family Papers



“Even if books and papers appear to have dried successfully, they may disintegrate because of materials in the flood waters.”

- Dry books and papers slowly
- If books and papers are damp, sprinkle cornstarch or talcum powder between pages to absorb moisture. Leave powder on for several hours and then brush off.
- Books that have sustained water damage should be placed on end with pages separated.
- When pages are partially dry, pile and press books to keep pages from crumpling.
- Alternate drying and pressing until books are thoroughly dry. This helps prevent mildew. Use a fan to hasten drying.
- When books are nearly dry, apply low heat with an electric iron. Separate the pages to prevent musty odors. This is a tedious process which you may want to use only with valuable books.
- Some chemicals such as parachlorobenzene may help stop mold growth. Books can be placed in closed containers with moth crystals to help stop mold growth. Contact your County Extension Office for recommendations.
- When books are thoroughly dry, close them and use C-clamps to help retain their shape.
- Books and papers may be frozen until you have time to work with them. Freezing is very effective in controlling mold growth.
- Even if books and papers appear to have dried successfully, they may disintegrate because of materials in the flood water. As a precautionary measure, photocopy important documents or papers, or keep them in a safe deposit box.
- An excellent source of information is the publication, "Procedures for Salvage of Water-Damaged Library Materials" by the Library of Congress, available at your local library.

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